

Maryland Department of Human Resources  
Advisory Council for Alternative Response

Meeting, March 12, 2013  
Minutes

**Council Member Attendees:** Pamela Brown, Paul DiLorenzo, John McGinnis, Dick Paulman, Melissa Rock via telephone, Dr. Albert Zachik, Sabrena McAllister (for James Trent), Vanita Taylor, Ted Dallas, David Thompson, Tracy Watkins-Tribbitt

**SSA Representatives:** David Ayer via telephone, Steve Berry, Shanda Crowder, Debbie Ramelmeier, Carnitra White, Audrey McLendon

**Other attendees:** Sandra Barnes, Megan Lucy, Brian Schleter, Christa Linton, Maria Tillman, Denise Wheeler, Claudia Remington via telephone, Angela Lagdameo,

**Welcome and Introductions**

Secretary Ted Dallas welcomed everyone to the meeting. In Carol Spigner's absence, Secretary Ted Dallas facilitated the meeting.

**Minutes**

The February 12, 2013 minutes were approved without corrections.

**Workgroup Updates**

**Practice Workgroup**

Steve Berry and David Thompson, co-chairs reported the next Practice Workgroup meeting is March 18th. The Central Region Community Forum is April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Harford Community College. The Council recommended that during the Forum, presenters should give an example of an AR case and how community partners and the local dss would join together to offer services and follow up. Two facilitators from Casey Family Programs are available to assist with the Community Forum.

The Western Region held the community / local dss co-chairs meeting March 9, 2013. Feedback and recommendations from the co-chair meeting included:

- Local dss and community co-chairs should be chosen and SSA Central staff should meet with the co-chairs prior to the Community Forum kick off to ensure that the staff are clear on the AR definition and process
- Schedule the "train the trainer" training soon after the Community Forum Kick off meeting
- Establish implementation milestones and time lines for the jurisdiction to follow
- Practice Workgroup prepare a summary of the training results to distribute to the AR Council before the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting
- The Community Partners Workgroup will fold into the Practice Workgroup

In addition, the Practice Workgroup suggested that SSA staff meet with local dss staff to review how to engage Community Partners in the AR process. What conversations are needed? What questions are needed to strategize processes and partnerships unique

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to Alternative Response? Also, it was recommended to add more technical language to the AR message that is delivered to staff.

There were challenges noted to implementation; jurisdictions will need technical assistance, training and follow up. Currently, SSA has 2 staff available to assist the jurisdictions. Requests for assistance from the National Resource Center and the Casey Family Programs will be developed.

**Evaluation Workgroup**

Co-Chairs Melissa Rock and David Ayer reported that L. Anthony Loman, PhD and Gary L. Siegel PhD, IAR Associates, St. Louis, Missouri will assist with the evaluation process. They have had experience with Alternative Response cases nationwide. The Memorandum of Agreement is expected to be completed in April at which time the evaluation recommendations will be integrated into a proposal.

**Community Partners Workgroup**

Co-Chairs Dr. Pamela Brown and Shanda Crowder reported that the Community Partners Workgroup plans to join the Practice Workgroup. The Workgroup is assessing the service needs at local levels for AR cases. The Workgroup will also assist locals determine if services are offered on a local level or a regional level.

Claudia Remington suggested that the Prevention Team from SCCAN could also assist with systems approaches for AR cases.

**Policy Workgroup**

Co-Chairs Dick Paulman and Debbie Ramelmeier reported that the Policy Workgroup slightly changed the policy. Substance exposed newborns will not be in the automatic or discretionary criteria. The process for Substance exposed newborns will follow the statute. Five of 6 project changes to the MD CHESSIE system to include AR cases are complete. The reports changes are still in process. It was recommended that the reports section is reviewed by the evaluators to ensure that the reports capture the needed information.

**Communications**

Brian Schleter and the Communications Team will review the communications materials Developed for AR and revise as necessary. The materials revisions will include more technical language that will be helpful to the local dss staff.

**Wrap up**

- The next Council meeting will be held Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at 311 W. Saratoga St., Room 1044, Baltimore, MD.